

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 442
By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Margaret Perry on the occasion of
her retirement from the University of Tennessee
at Martin.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should
honor those citizens who in their years of work have achieved success in their chosen fields and
who have contributed significantly to the future of higher education in our great state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret N. Perry is one such remarkable person whose exceptional
efforts as chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) for the last eleven years
should not go unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Perry has proven during her exemplary tenure at UTM that she
is more than capable of the herculean task of running a large and complex institution of higher
learning; and

WHEREAS, serving with distinction, rare devotion, and a genuine concern for others, Dr.
Perry has earned the respect and esteem of UTM students, staff, alumni, and community and
state officials, and has proven that she is truly a consummate leader; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Perry is the first UTM graduate to serve as the university's
chancellor; she earned her bachelor's degree from UTM and her master's and doctorate
degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

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WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Dr. Perry became a faculty member and administrator at UTK in the College of Human Ecology before being named the university's Dean of Graduate Students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Perry's expert leadership was recognized by Tennessee Technological University officials and she was recruited to become Tennessee Tech's Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position in which she served with acumen before coming to UTM; and

WHEREAS, the very epitome of a higher education leader, Chancellor Perry's accomplishments at UT Martin are numerous as well as impressive; she is credited with the university's enrollment growth, increased admission standards, new academic and student programs, and increased retention and graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Perry also led efforts last July to obtain approval from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for a new bachelor of science degree in engineering for the university; another noteworthy achievement involved the procurement of an integrated technology system for the campus, an effort that will help to ready UTM for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, knowing full well that a modern American university today must concentrate on international education, programs and recruitment, Dr. Perry made significant progress with universities in France, China, Japan, Taiwan and Mexico to develop working relationships and student exchange programs; and

WHEREAS, under Chancellor Perry's expert leadership, all UT Martin programs eligible for accreditation have received such a distinguished mark; she has also been instrumental in establishing chairs of excellence in food, fibers and banking, and centers of excellence in math, science, quality and productivity; and

WHEREAS, the university's outreach programs have benefited greatly from Dr. Perry's exemplary efforts; under her tutelage, MBA programs have been established in Jackson and

Oak Ridge, a new McNairy County higher education center has been established, and partnerships with industry have come to fruition; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her talents and abilities, Dr. Perry has been the lauded recipient of numerous accolades and awards; she received the 1986 Tennessee State 4-H Alumni award, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the UT Knoxville College of Human Ecology, and the NAACP's 1990 Outstanding Leadership Award for multicultural education efforts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Perry's efforts have also garnered awards for her beloved institution; UTM received the Professional Grounds Management Society's Grand Award in 1993 and the national "A Pledge and A Promise" Environmental Award in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Perry has also had a hand in the growth and development of UTM's athletic program; she led the campaign to change the program's name from "Pacers" to "Skyhawks" and was a leader in the university's efforts to join the Ohio Valley Conference in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the longest-serving chancellor of any chancellor or president at a four-year university in Tennessee, Dr. Margaret Perry found university work very rewarding, noting that it was her "pleasure and privilege to serve as UT Martin chancellor" and saying that in her years there, she has been "privileged to work with some of the best people on earth"; and

WHEREAS, with tremendous knowledge, skill and desire, Chancellor Perry has made countless contributions to our state's universities, most notably UT Martin, and she has touched the lives of many with her dedication and devotion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Perry exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean, and upon the occasion of her well-deserved retirement, it is appropriate that we pause to honor her as she is a giant in the field of higher education and a valuable citizen of our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Dr. Margaret N. Perry upon her retirement from the University of Tennessee at Martin. We thank Dr. Perry for her years of devotion to the higher education system in our state and extend to her our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause deleted from such copy.